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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Creator of all that provides and sustains life, Ruler of all that governs and controls our being, Guardian of our souls and Protector of our Spirits; out of all the knowledge we acquire, grant us wisdom so that we will do that which we learn in order that life may be enhanced for all. In all our appetites for pleasure and personal satisfaction, grant us temperance, so that we may always be ready and able to serve our neighbor and help those who have needs. O God, may we seek to discern what is right when our personal desires and Your good will clash, and may we likewise never fail to request Your guidance when our selfish search for gain is pitted against someone else's need. So we pray, may our work at the end of this day be blessed with Your benediction. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

INTERNET ACCESS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Mr. GINGRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to let the House know that the House is not only working on a balanced budget for America's future, but that we are also making this information available through the Internet, so that every citizen, including Members of the House and their staffs, including the news media, including students, will be able to access this.

I am going to mention this, and I hope that we will be able to work through the House Information System and with C-SPAN to actually get this put up on the screen a little bit. But I wanted to start the day today by indicating how different we are going to be.

If you access through the Internet on a home page which will be labeled "A Balanced Budget for America's Future," it is at Hillsource.house.gov/budget.html. I realize people cannot pick all that up. I will repeat it one time. But the point I am making is that all the talk about getting access to materials, all the talk about Washington lobbyists, we are making available today information on the budget.

It is our hope that we are going to be able to make available by the end of today all of the balanced budget documents. The Thomas system, named for Thomas Jefferson, which the Library of Congress runs, will carry what is in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

We are working to get all of that available so that every Member by Monday and every citizen and every

student and every class will be able to pull up this budget in virtually real-time, look at it at the same time as the Washington insiders, have all the knowledge we have, and truly move toward a balanced budget in the right way, with the American people participating. So every talk radio show host, every single potential critic, every columnist will have access to the same data, but so will citizens, without editing by anyone.

Again, if I might say, if Members look for Hillsource.house.gov/budget.html, and again, I hope we will work out some arrangement during the day to have the system put this up in writing so folks can get access to it. I am going to ask C-SPAN if there is a way when they do their call-in shows this weekend that they can actually print this.

In addition, all the dates in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will be on the Thomas system and available through the Library of Congress, which now gets several million contacts a month through this sort of thing. The initial stage will include the two letters sent to President Clinton and Erskine Bowles from Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT and myself, the balanced budget agreement summary documents as compiled by the House Committee on the Budget staff, and other support details as rapidly as they become available.

We are working with the committee, so as rapidly as we can get the entire markup and the Committee on the Budget on the electronic system, everybody in the country simultaneously will be able to have access, without having to wait for printing or having to wait for some document to come from a subscription or from a lobbyist.

DEMOCRATS WILL DEMAND FULL FUNDING FOR THE WIC PROGRAM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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